



OMG series, Article 4:

We Know Because We Know Because We Know

Maybe no one accuses you of being a know-it-all, but when it comes to the Return of Christ, you might feel like you have all the bases covered. Christ Himself could be offering you a bit of a curveball, however, since He said, "Sleep not, for I come like a thief in the night when you least expect", or some such derivation of that statement.

I'm wondering why there seems to be so much confidence in this "knowledge" of how exactly the Return of this Great Teacher is going to go, given that the source of this knowledge, The Holy Bible, has about 900 different english translations. That's just

ENGLISH translations. It has also been translated into 636 other languages with just the New Testament itself being translated into 1442 languages. This sort of reminds me of the old game of Telephone where the first person whispers, "The Christ is coming at the end of the world on a cloud" into your ear. Then you whisper this in the next person's ear, and after, say, twelve or so people take their turn attempting to pass along this information verbatim, the last person comes out with, "Christ is coming on a cloudy day". So, it does make some sense that there have been so many translations and interpretations of the writings in the Bible, what with the 40 years of Telephone that went on after Jesus died (before even the first gospels were written down), and the whole problem of language (Jesus and his followers spoke Aramaic. Their scriptures were in Hebrew, but most people around town spoke Greek - OMG!), but also because the stories were "adjusted" according to the particular locations and cultures where the stories were shared. AND, sometimes the gospel stories were translated into a certain language and then translated back out of that language - by different people. The early Christians eventually figured out that their stories were "different". But we must not be too hard on all our fore fathers and fore mothers because the original happenings confused everyone to begin with!

Yes, this much translated Book is a bit of a challenge, at times, to understand, and downright confusing at other times, because Jesus Himself was actually a pretty confusing guy. Some thought he was the Messiah, but others thought he was just one in a crowd of messianic-type guys or one in a long line of great pretenders. Back in those days, miracle workers were a dime a dozen, but Jesus wasn't JUST a miracle worker. He was a Teacher/Preacher as well. And his miracles were peculiar. One time He had to repeat a miracle and another time one didn't work. Jesus was intentionally mysterious. He both revealed and concealed His identity. Some biblical scholars even have a name for this - "Messianic Secret". But one gets a brain freeze reading about this Messianic Secret on Wikipedia due to the convoluted theories and translations of translations.

This "mystery" was a big game plan for Jesus, in my opinion. I think there is a hint about why this is so in the words Jesus supposedly spoke to Simon Peter when Simon Peter replied, "You are the Messiah", after Jesus asked him, "Who do you say that I am?". Jesus stated, "Blessed are you, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven". Now, if I was going to jump on the bandwagon and take a stab at translation, which I will, I would say that this means that Simon Peter had an INNER experience of the truth of Jesus's true identity. He had not come to this conclusion from a study of outward signs, which we have gone over - were downright confusing - but from some inner place of knowing - perhaps intuition, or as Jesus suggested, a gift from God. I am going to go out on a limb here and suggest that Simon Peter was a rare bird, who had an open mind (not cluttered with the rock-solid preconceived notions that most of us have) and an open heart, and that was why he was blessed to know the true nature of his Teacher. The "mystery" was necessary to allow the intuitive faculty and inner experience to come into play.

Not only were things confusing when Jesus was alive, but they were also terribly confusing after he was crucified. Even aside from the whole vanishing act He did in the tomb, which was super cool, since he left a photographic negative of himself on his shroud, there was surely also this really difficult question in the minds of his followers, “If He truly was The Savior, why would God let him be shamed like a criminal and die a horrible death on a cross like that?” There was so much confusion right after Jesus died that even Simon Peter denied knowing Jesus three times before the cock crowed the next morning! We are STILL confused today by many things having to do with Jesus, but we haven’t even seen the half of it yet. There is more on the horizon. Hold on to your hats!

But before I launch into today’s confounded confusion, I will add that after Jesus died and resurrected himself, He appeared miraculously to a number of His Disciples. The “Jesus followers” were forced out of Jerusalem due to the Siege of Masada (the first Jewish-Roman war) and went north and settled in villages where they planned to convert a mess of Jews, but only a few accepted their crazy stories, so they were relegated to the fringes. Paul, however, had the pregnant idea (which he probably got after Jesus miraculously appeared to him) to get the gentiles to convert and he went on this big mission to Greece and what is now Turkey. He, of course, ran into a bunch of problems trying to bring this story of Jesus as the “Awaited One”, to the public, since most everyone had an expectation that the Christ would come as a warrior king who would deliver them from the evil hands of the Romans. Instead Jesus came as a poor carpenter who preached non violence and “turning the other cheek”. Paul also had to make a few rationalizations, in his public presentations, as to why the Christ would come, promising to save everyone, but then die right away, leaving everyone seemingly in the lurch - with life just going back to the way it was. Aside from that, he also had to deal with all the brouhaha over circumcision. Yep. Circumcision. The jews complained that letting uncircumcised gentiles into the newly forming “Christian” groups went against the law of Moses, but they eventually got that worked out, lucky thing for those poor gentiles of the male persuasion. The point to all of this is to illustrate the challenges of sharing profound (and confusing) information on extraordinary (and confusing) happenings.

In the first century, a handful of people were going around, facing the skeptical public with this bizarre story that “the Christ was here”. In this 21st century a much larger handful of people are facing not only a skeptical public but a wildly cynical and much more intelligent public with the bizarre story that “the Christ IS here (again!)”. I am one of these people. For over thirty years I have been making a stink about this, as have many other people, all over the world, that I am acquainted with, and many others that I am not acquainted with. I have traveled to many corners of Colorado (the state where I reside) to share this with anyone who will listen, at expos and fairs of all kinds. I have organized and/or given talks, created posters and ads and flyers for local and national events. I have worked on many interesting projects in my effort to share this information with interested parties. I have counterparts all over the world who are doing the same thing in their locales. There is a radio program in France, and and two here in the States devoted to sharing information about this happening. There are probably

more that I don't know about. There is an exhaustive website that is a compendium of all the info having to do with this story. There is a Youtube channel.

Makes me wonder what Jesus's twelve disciples would have done if they had had Twitter and Facebook! In 2017, it is a strange new world in the realm of Christ groupies.

Through our various contemporary creative avenues, we are all pointing a finger at the signs in the world, just as the Jesus Followers did back then through their creative avenues. There are signs EVERYWHERE today. The list is long and every day it gets longer. Some are the "sensational-type" signs, for those who need such signs, but there are many other kinds of signs in the world - economic, political, social and environmental - so I will just use a broad sweep here and say the COMMOTION in the world to describe these less sensational signs (even tho, these days, the less sensational signs are gaining ground on the sensational signs!) . But these outward signs are not what is needed for true and utter conviction about the Christ's Presence in the world. Even if the Pope knocked on your door and said to you directly, "The Christ is in the World", you wouldn't truly know it FOR SURE..... there would always be this doubt. And especially if you heard it from some unknown stranger like me. How could you possibly know this to be true after hearing it from moi! Well, you can't. Because the only way you can know it FOR SURE is to have your own INNER experience that it is true. And if you can step put of your own way, in this matter, by putting aside all those nifty preconceived notions, then you could be one of those rare birds like Simon Peter, with an open mind and an open heart, which puts you in the right place to have a personal experience of the Christ. He can touch your heart in a way that astounds. In a way that stops your breathing and brings tears streaming down your face. This is the extraordinary gift and the place of knowing.

But back to the confusion. It has never left us over this subject, and it probably never will, because it always seems to be the game plan. It was back then and it is now. Today, we have The Christ walking our streets, giving experiences of His Nature to groups and individuals all over the world, but I would bet my last chocolate bar that He never says who He really is to these people. He is a man of many disguises. He looks different every time He appears to people (because all the Masters can change their appearance at will, and appear and disappear at will also. Since He is the Head of our Spiritual Hierarchy, He can do this REALLY WELL!). And why does He appear as a beggar to one person, as a young guy on bicycle to another, or as a protester in a march on women's rights to another? He does this because He wants us to discover Him through our HEARTS and not our Heads. Just as Simon Peter was able to decipher who Jesus really was through his HEART, we need to do the same. Heck with the SIGNS. What do we KNOW INSIDE? What is our HEART telling us? Does this have the ring of truth?

Did you know that it wasn't until almost 600 years after Paul traveled around spreading the news about Jesus Christ that Christian churches sprung up throughout the Roman Empire? Whew! Humanity had a LOT of time to contemplate the situation. I guess the confusion was too much! Hopefully, today, with the advent of the all-important internet, things will go a little faster with this installment of the Christ into our everyday lives.

And here is another feather in the cap of confusion for you. This time the Christ is here in His own body, and not as a Master overshadowing a Disciple, as was the case with Jesus. Jesus was **not** THE Christ, but the **Beloved Disciple** of His Master, Who was (and still is) the Christ. And this is still the relationship They have - Master and Disciple, and they worked TOGETHER back in Jerusalem. In my next article, I will illustrate this interesting bit of confusion for you. And just one more little thing (which might just send you over into apoplexy), but I must say it: This Christ is not just the Christ that Christians await. Since He is the Head of our Spiritual Hierarchy, as I mentioned, then He is also the One Awaited by all the other religious groups as well. So, Hindus would see Him as The Return of Krishna, Jews would see him as the Messiah, Buddhists would see him as the next Buddha (Maitreya Buddha), and Muslims would see Him as the Imam Madhi. So, basically, He is a One-Size-Fits-All Savior. You interested? No circumcision needed.

And, BTW, He has come again because..... well, look around you.... we have made a mess of things.....